



**Testimony of Matthew Wallace, M.S., R.Ph
Director of Pharmacy Services at Connecticut Children's
to the Insurance & Real Estate Committee
*Senate Bill 355- An Act Establishing the 340B Drug Pricing Nondiscrimination Act***

March 15, 2022

Senator Lesser, Representative Wood and members of the Insurance & Real Estate Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of *Senate Bill 355- An Act Establishing the 340B Drug Pricing Nondiscrimination Act*.

My name is Matthew Wallace, and I serve as the Director of Pharmacy Service at Connecticut Children's. We support this proposed legislation because it will help protect safety net providers like Connecticut Children's from discriminatory practices and allow us to continue caring for children of all backgrounds and family income levels.

Before commenting on the bill, I wish to provide some background about Connecticut Children's, a nationally recognized, 187-bed not-for-profit children's hospital driving innovation in pediatrics. With over 3,000 employees and 1,300 providers on our medical staff, we are the only hospital in the State dedicated exclusively to the care of children. We have, by far, the highest Medicaid volume of all hospitals in Connecticut and are a proud participant in the 340B Drug Pricing Program.

The 340B Drug Pricing Program supports safety net providers, like Connecticut Children's, and helps these providers continue to serve low-income patients. Under the program, providers with high Medicaid patient volumes are able to purchase expensive prescription drugs at reduced prices. Given that reimbursement rates for Medicaid services covers only a fraction of the cost of providing care, programs like 340B allow hospitals like Connecticut Children's to free up resources to support hospital operations and services for our patients.

The 340B Program is vitally important to our health system and allows us to fulfill our mission of providing care to all children, no matter their parent's income-level or their source of insurance coverage. Please support this legislation which will help protect already scarce federal dollars. Thank you for your consideration of our position. If you have any questions about this testimony, please contact Emily Boushee, (eboushee@connecticutchildrens.org) Government Relations Associate.